

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01153 201557Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /075 W

-----201602Z 116446 /43

O 201515Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 837

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USIA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: FIRST SOVIET REACTION TO CAIRO PRICE RIOTS

1. SOVIET REACTION. FIRST EDITION OF KHBAR REPORTED ON FIRST PAGE THAT MOSCOW RADIO GIVING PROMINENT TREATMENT TO RIOTS, BUT THIS ITEM DROPPED IN SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS.

2. SOVIET EMBOFF JANUARY 20 DOWNPLAYED TO EMBOFF SIGNIFICANCE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDED CONFIDENTIAL

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IT SOVIET VIEW THAT, IN LONG RUN, SADAT REGIME SOMEWHAT WEAKENED AS MASSES NOW MORE WILLING TO TAKE POLITICAL QUESTIONS INTO STREETS. SOVIET EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT REGIME WILL HAVE TO ENACT HEAVY TAXATION AGAINST "PARASITIC BOURGEOIS" ELEMENTS AND REDUCE AMOUNT CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION EVIDENT IN CAIRO IF ANY PRICE RISES TO HAVE CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. SOVIET EMBOFF

STOUTLY MAINTAINED THAT "COMMUNISTS" NOT INVOLVED IN
INFLAMING POPULACE, ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS
CERTAINLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. IN SOVIET EMBASSY VIEW, JANUARY 18 DEMONSTRATIONS
PRIMARILY CONFINED TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, BUT GOE
SUSPENSION OF PRICE PACKAGE JANUARY 19 PRIMARILY DUE
TO FACT THAT RIOT HAD TURNED POLITICAL. SOVIETS HAVE
GREAT RESPECT FOR KAISOUNI AND WOULD FIND IT STRANGE
IF HE MADE SCAPEGOAT FOR INEPT POLITICAL HANDLING OF
PRICE QUESTION. SOVIETS ALSO DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT
PM SALIM WILL BE DISMISSED IN NEAR FUTURE OVER PRICE
IMBROGLIO, BECAUSE SALIM TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH
SADAT AND NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE PM YET ON HORIZON.
SOVIETS ALSO BELIEVE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WILL REINFORCE
SADAT DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT IN 1977 AND
AS RRESULT GOE WILL INCREASE PRESSURES ON USG.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFLATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, PRICES, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdmk.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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